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Administrative Officer
Town of Bolton
Public Hearing
Planning & Development Committee
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RELIEF FROM UNFUNDED STATE MANDATES

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the following proposed bills which would prohibit the adoption of any new unfunded mandate unless approved by a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly: **HB-5097, HB-5099, HB-5101, HB-5172, HB-5241, HB-5273, HB-5274, HB-5438, HB-5439, HB-5528, HB-5529, and SB-223.**

We appreciate the Committee's responsiveness to our concern regarding unfunded mandates. **These bills will ensure that any new proposed unfunded mandates are subject to a thorough review and discussion by the legislature. By requiring a 2/3 vote to adopt any new mandate, these proposals will focus debate on the costs associated with implementing certain legislation.**

We believe this will allow all members of the General Assembly to make an informed decision regarding the cost of legislation to municipalities versus the benefits to our residents.

I also support the following bills that will allow towns to post legal notices on the town's website instead of in print newspapers: **SB-143, HB-5530, and HB-5532.** This proposal could save our town about \$5000 or \$6000 per year. It will also make it easier for people to access information.

In addition, I **support HB-5295**, which will eliminate the mandate that towns pay for the storage costs for the belongings of tenants who have been evicted. Although not a huge problem for a town of our size, it doesn't make sense to interject the town into this type of legal dispute between other parties.

Given the difficult budgetary climate and the continued pressure on towns to hold the line on costs, I also urge the committee to address other mandates, such as prevailing wage and binding arbitration, which drive up costs for municipalities. We must give towns the tools to manage local budgets.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.